Withdrawal of carbonated drinks from schools

4081. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 511 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 2007 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has written to Health Ministers of all States to consider issuing instructions for withdrawing carbonated drinks from school and college canteens and to Chief Ministers of all States to consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities for withdrawing carbonated drinks from canteens of educational institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States and Union Territories to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and Carbonated Drinks from school and college canteens. Letters have also been written to Chief Ministers of all States and UTs to seriously consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of Junk Food and Carbonated Drinks from canteens of educational institutes.

As per information available, there are a few studies to indicate a positive correlation between consumption of such foods and obesity leading to diet related chronic non-communicable diseases.

Smoking habit among the youth

4082. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of youth affected by the habit of gutkha-pan masala in the various States of the country during the last two years;

(b) whether any study has been undertaken with regard to evaluate the ill-effects of this habit on the youth; and